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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord of the storm and the calm, the troubled sea and the quiet brook, may we not only state our prayers with our lips, but may we pray to You with our hearts. Keep us from being so preoccupied with difficulties that we fail to see all the opportunities around us. Guide our Senators today. May they listen to the quiet direction of Your spirit. Consecrate their speech to Your service. Give them a deep faith and a firm trust in You. Bless today those in our Senate family who are feeling the pains of grief. Remind us that You will take care of our tomorrows. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning at 9:45 the Senate will begin a sequence of stacked votes in relation to six pending amendments to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Following these votes this morning, the two managers will continue to work through the remaining amendments to the bill.

As we stated yesterday, it is our intention to complete this bill prior to

the close of business today. And given our progress last night—and I do thank everyone for participating and working together as we got on a track that will allow us to complete this bill today, but given that progress, I am hopeful we will be able to finish the bill at a reasonable time today.

With the understanding we do complete that bill, we will not have votes on Thursday or on Friday. We, of course, will be in session both of those days. Tomorrow, September 11, there will be a number of events throughout the day that Members will be participating in, and we will try to adjust the schedule accordingly.

We will have business Thursday and Friday. I plan on bringing up one of the appropriations bills after discussion with the President pro tempore, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, about what is the most appropriate bill. We will be making that announcement a little bit later today.

I will have more to say on events for tomorrow as well as Friday's schedule following completion of the Labor-HHS bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2660, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2660) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Specter amendment No. 1542, in the nature of a substitute.

Akaka amendment No. 1544 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide funding for the Excellence in Economic Education Act of 2001.

Mikulski amendment No. 1552 (to amendment No. 1542), to increase funding for programs under the Nurse Reinvestment Act and other nursing workforce development programs.

Kohl amendment No. 1558 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide additional funding for the ombudsman program for the protection of vulnerable older Americans.

Dodd amendment No. 1572 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide additional funding for grants to States under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

DeWine amendment No. 1561 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide funds to support graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

DeWine amendment No. 1560 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide funds to support poison control centers.

DeWine amendment No. 1578 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide funding for the Underground Railroad Education and Cultural Program.

Harkin amendment No. 1580 (to amendment No. 1542), to protect the rights of employees to receive overtime compensation.

Schumer amendment No. 1598 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide additional funding for programs under the Ryan White Care Act.

Reed amendment No. 1595 (to amendment No. 1542), to provide funding for home energy assistance needs under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981.

Reed amendment No. 1592 (to amendment No. 1542), to increase funding for immunization services.

Reed amendment No. 1596 (to amendment No. 1542), to increase funding for certain literacy, library, and museum programs.

Corzine amendment No. 1602 (to amendment No. 1542), to restore cuts in student aid.

Reid amendment No. 1603 (to amendment No. 1542), to increase funding for certain education and related programs.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, we are set to proceed with a series of stacked votes at 9:45 a.m. There are a fair number of amendments which have yet to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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